

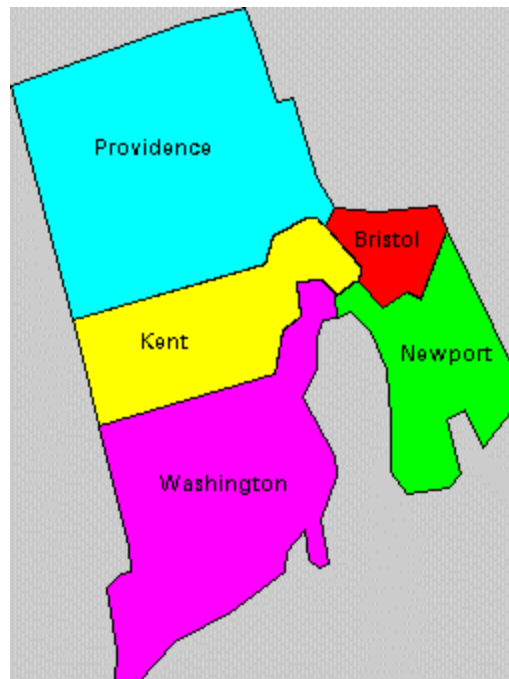
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Rhode Island

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Rhode Island

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 988,480 (1998 Estimate)
- Capitol: Providence

Politics

- Governor: Lincoln Almond
- Lieutenant Governor: Charles J. Fogarty
- Attorney General: Sheldon Whitehouse
- Secretary of State: James R. Langevin
- U.S. Senators: Lincoln Chafee (R), Jack Reed (R)
- U.S. Representatives (District): Patrick J. Kennedy (1), Robert A. Weygand (2)

Programs/Initiatives

- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantee awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)²:
 - \$86,218.00 to the University of Rhode Island in Kingston
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed site: Providence³
- Governor's Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force⁴
Formed in September of 1996, this Task Force is comprised of eight subcommittees addressing specific target areas. The major objective of this Task Force is to decrease juvenile crime, especially violent crime. Also, the Task Force has been charged with strengthening and integrating community-based prevention systems.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In 1998 there were 4,208 arrests for drug abuse violations in Rhode Island. 666 of those arrested were juveniles.⁵
- According to the Rhode Island State Police, the total number of crime index offenses decreased 3.9% from 1997 to 1998.⁶

Crime Index Offenses, Rhode Island, 1997-1998

Offense	1997	1998	% Change
Murder	25	25	0.0%
Forcible Rape	362	346	-4.4%
Robbery	708	662	-6.4%
Aggravated Assault	2,196	2,036	-7.2%
Burglary	7,078	6,443	-8.9%
Larceny-Theft	21,500	21,359	-0.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	4,192	3,822	-8.8%
Total	36,061	34,693	-3.9%

- From 1997 to 1998 the Rhode Island State Police made 99 arrests for possession of marijuana.⁷

Number of Drug-Related Criminal Arrests by R.I.S.P., 1997-98

Offense	#	Offense	#
Delivery of Cocaine	6	Possession of Cocaine	90
Delivery of Cocaine to Police	2	Poss. of Coc. W/ Intent to Deliver	34
Delivery of Heroin	2	Possession of Crack	3
Delivery of Marijuana	1	Possession of Heroin	46
Conspiracy to Deliver Cocaine	0	Poss. of Her. W/ Intent to Deliver	17
Marijuana Cultivation	0	Possession of LSD	2
Possession of Steroids	1	Possession of Marijuana	99
Possession of Needle/Syringe	8	Poss. of Marij. W/Intent to Deliver	28

- The DEA-Providence Resident Office has reported that the top five communities in which it has made the majority of its arrests are the following: Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, Central Falls and Woonsocket.⁸

Drugs⁹

- The principal groups involved in drug trafficking in Rhode Island are Dominicans, Colombians, Jamaicans, Nigerians, Guatemalans and Asians.
- Immigrants from the Dominican Republic have been the leading wholesalers and retailers of heroin and cocaine in Rhode Island.
- Caucasian traffickers continue to dominate the distribution of marijuana and dangerous drugs such as PCP.
- Heroin
Heroin is readily available in Rhode Island at very high purity levels (up to 90%). Heroin distributed in Rhode Island is most often purchased in New York and transported to small milling operations located throughout the Providence area. From here it is distributed throughout the rest of Rhode Island.
- Cocaine
Cocaine sources of supply for the local Colombians and Dominicans are located in the Queens, Corona area of New York as well as in Florida. Interstate 95 remains the preferred trafficking route for Colombians and Dominicans travelling to and from Rhode Island. Vehicles with hidden compartments, in addition to buslines, and air traffic are all used to transport cocaine into Rhode Island. The distribution of crack in Rhode Island is centered in local housing projects with traffickers operating out of local discount motels (especially in the greater Newport area).
- Marijuana
Foreign source marijuana is available in limited quantities in Rhode Island. Most of the foreign-grown marijuana found here is Mexican in origin. The distribution of marijuana in Rhode Island is principally controlled by well-organized Caucasian groups, which travel to border areas in Texas and Arizona to purchase Mexican pot. Small amounts of low-grade domestic marijuana are grown in Rhode Island.
- Other Dangerous Drugs

- GHB: In March of 1995, the state of Rhode Island made it a Schedule I offense to possess and manufacture GHB.
- LSD: Blotter acid LSD is sporadically available in the greater Providence, Woonsocket and Narragansett areas of Rhode Island. Source areas for the LSD found here are New York City, New Jersey and California.
- PCP: PCP is reportedly available in very small quantities in Woonsocket.
- Steroids: The use and abuse of anabolic steroids has emerged in the past few years as a serious drug problem in Rhode Island.

Juveniles¹⁰

- In 1997 47.0% of Rhode Island high school students surveyed stated that they had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime.

Percent of Rhode Island High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1997

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	43.1	50.9	47.0
Current Marijuana Use (2)	26.0	31.3	28.7
Lifetime Cocaine Use	4.3	9.9	7.0
Current Cocaine Use	2.4	5.3	3.8
Lifetime Crack or Free-base Use	2.9	6.8	4.8
Lifetime Illegal Steroid use	3.9	7.7	5.8
Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use (3)	1.3	3.5	2.5
Lifetime Use of Other Illegal Drugs (4)	14.7	20.2	17.4
Lifetime Use of Inhalants	19.2	22.2	20.7

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life
2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey
3. Used a needle to inject drugs
4. Other Drugs include LSD, PCP, MDMA, Heroin, Methamphetamine, and Mushrooms

- Between 1987 and 1995, arrests of juveniles spiraled, increasing 118%.¹¹
- Rhode Island's overall crime arrests have continued to climb most noticeably for drug violations. Between 1993 and 1995, arrests of juveniles for selling drugs increased 40%, and arrests for drug use or possession jumped 74%.¹²

Trafficking and Seizures

- During 1997 the Rhode Island State Police Narcotics Unit seized the following¹³:
 - 441 lbs. of marijuana
 - 30 lbs. of cocaine
 - 2.5 lbs. of crack
 - 3,982 packets of heroin (not including over 1 lb. of pure heroin)
 - 4.5 lbs. of psychedelic mushrooms
 - 100 hits of LSD
 - 7 automobiles
 - 16 guns (including a sawed-off shotgun and a machine gun with silencer)
 - \$217,774.00 in cash
- There were a total of 712 marijuana plants eradicated in Rhode Island in 1998.¹⁴

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Rhode Island, 1998

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
37	291	5	421	712

Enforcement

- The Narcotics Unit of the Rhode Island State Police consists of 1 Corporal, 5 detectives, and 1 narcotic detection canine. During 1997, members of this Unit were responsible for the investigation of 189 cases resulting in 112 arrests.¹⁵
- As of October 31, 1998, Rhode Island had a total of 296 full-time law enforcement employees.¹⁶

Full-time Law Enforcement Employees, Rhode Island, 1998

	Officers		Civilians		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
State Police	189	17	25	5	250
Other State Agencies	33	3	19	5	46

Courts¹⁷

- During FY 1998, 36.0% of the total number of defendants sentenced in Rhode Island were sentenced for drug trafficking offenses.
- Of this 36.0%, 31.7% were convicted of trafficking powder cocaine, 29.2% for crack cocaine, 21.9% for marijuana, and 17% for heroin trafficking.

Corrections

- The Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institution (ACI) consists of 7 separate facilities with a total capacity of 3,441 beds.¹⁸
- At yearend 1997 there were 3,371 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Rhode Island. At advance yearend 1998, this number was 3,445.¹⁹
- At the beginning of 1998 (January 1), Rhode Island's adult probation population totaled 19,648. By the end of the year (December 31), the population was 20,343.²⁰
- There were 526 adults on parole at the beginning of 1998 and 469 on parole at the end of the year. This represents a 10.8% decrease in Rhode Island's parole population for 1998.²¹

Treatment²²

- Treatment services in Rhode Island include the following: Detox-Free Standing Residential; Residential/Short Term; Residential/Long Term; Intensive Outpatient (Day Treatment); Outpatient; Outpatient Methadone, and Outpatient Methadone Detox.

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- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² Drug-Free Communities Grantees:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.fob/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>
- ³ Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- ⁴ Rhode Island Governor's Justice Commission, *FY 97 Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program*
- ⁵ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>
- ⁶ Rhode Island State Police: <http://www.risp.state.ri.us/CRIME%20INDEX%20OFFENSES.htm>
- ⁷ Rhode Island State Police: <http://www.risp.state.ri.us/PAGE55.html>
- ⁸ Rhode Island Governor's Justice Commission, *FY 97 Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program*
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ MMWR, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States, 1997*, August 1998
- ¹¹ Rhode Island Governor's Justice Commission, *FY 97 Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program*
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Rhode Island State Police: <http://www.risp.state.ri.us/PAGE30.html>
- ¹⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1998*:
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- ¹⁵ Rhode Island State Police: <http://www.risp.state.ri.us/PAGE30.html>
- ¹⁶ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>
- ¹⁷ U.S. Sentencing Commission: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/ri98.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Rhode Island Department of Corrections Web site: <http://www.doc.state.ri.us/OVERVIEW.HTM>
- ¹⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1998*, August 1999:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/p98.pdf>
- ²⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998*, August 1999:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus98.pdf>
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Rhode Island Governor's Justice Commission, *FY 97 Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program*

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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